4th November 1933]

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—"In view of the fact that Salem and Erode are tacked on to the Pykara scheme, will the Government adopt the same policy they adopted with regard to the municipalities in connexion with the granting of licence?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"In this particular case, licence has been given to a private body."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—"Now that the scheme has been altered, will there be a change in the policy of the Government also?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"I have already answered my hon. Friend's question. It is for that identical reason that the Government are now considering whether it is possible to change the rate with regard to Salem."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I ask when the Government will be able to supply electricity to Madras City from Mettur?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"As I said, it is not possible to say that now. Even the estimates for the Mettur Scheme are not ready. After the estimates are received from the Chief Engineer, funds have to be provided and then the sanction of the Secretary of State has to be obtained; then the scheme has to be put into operation."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I ask whether no estimates were prepared at any time and whether no scheme was before the Government with regard to the production of energy from Mettur?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"There is a general proposal for producing energy from Mettur. Details have not been worked out."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"In view of the fact that the Mettur Scheme is not likely to fructify in the near future, will the Government consider the desirability of getting current from Pykara, if it is possible to do so?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"It is commercially impossible, according to experts, to bring current from Pykara to Madras."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—"It is proposed to change the rates. May I know if there is any decision to change the licence also and to adopt a uniform policy?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"I am afraid, not."

Hydro-electric scheme, Mettur.

* 368 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the hydro-electric scheme at Mettur is likely to be finished;

(b) to which places it will be supplying electricity; and

(c) what will be the charge per unit current if it is for lighting and other household purposes, and what will be the cost if it is for mills or for agricultural purposes?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) It is not possible to furnish the information asked for, as the scheme has not yet been submitted to Government for consideration. The details are being worked out by the Chief Engineer for Electricity.

Contract with a private company for the supply of electricity to Villupuram and Cuddalore.

* 369 Q.—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that contract has been given to a private company for the supply of electricity to Villupuram and Cuddalore, and if so, why such permission was given;

(b) whether any survey for electricity is being carried on between Mettur and Madras;

(c) if so, when it will be completed;

(d) whether electricity will be supplied to the Madras City after the completion of the survey; and

(e) if the answer to clause (d) is in the affirmative, what the probable cost per unit of current consumed at Madras will be?

A.—(a) A licence to supply electric energy in the taluks of Cuddalore, Chidambaram and Villupuram has been granted to the South Arcot Electric Distribution Company, Ltd. The licence was given on the application of the company in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act and the rules framed under it.

(b) & (c) A survey of the route of the transmission line from Mettur to Madras (197 miles) was completed in the year 1932–33.

(d) The supply to Madras City cannot be made on the completion of the mere survey.

(e) It is not possible now to state what the cost per unit of hydro-electric power will be when it becomes possible to make it available in 'Madras.'

Forests

Withdrawal of forest concessions in South Kanara.

* 370 Q.—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what the peculiar privileges which had been conceded to the cultivators of South Kanara in respect of their neighbouring reserve forests were and when they had been granted;